

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SIL-01 L-02 LAB-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-01 /034 W  
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R 261149Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 3242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: AID FY 1975 SUPPORT OF ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE  
(AAFLI) PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 038386

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS BEEN SATISFIED WITH AAFLI PERFORMANCE TO DATE AND FINDS CONTINUATION IN THE SAME GENERAL DIRECTION AT SUGGESTED FUNDING LEVELS APPROPRIATE. WE DO, HOWEVER, WISH TO ENCOURAGE AAFLI TO UNDERTAKE CLOSE COORDINATION WITH EMBASSY ON AWARD OF SOCIAL PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AAFLI'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. ENTERING THAILAND AT A TIME OF POLITICAL CHANGE AND FERMENT IN THE THAI LABOR MOVEMENT, CAREFUL ATTENTION TO LOCAL SENSITIVITIES AND GOOD SOLID PROGRAMMING IN SUPPORT OF LABOR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS, WITHOUT POLITICAL STRINGS, HAS BROUGHT AAFLI ALMOST UNIVERSAL ACCLAIM IN THE THAI LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. EMBASSY IS CONVINCED THAT WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, TO THE POINT OF CONSENSUS, THROUGHOUT THE LABOR MOVEMENT FOR INCREASED EFFORTS AT LABOR EDUCATION WILL ASSURE FAVORABLE RECEPTION FOR AAFLI'S PROPOSALS CONTAINED REFTEL (PARA 3 (A), (1), (2), (3), AND (4).

4. AS TO SOCIAL PROJECTS (PARA 4, 4B) EMBASSY WOULD LIKE  
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TO COUNSEL CAUTION. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF MAKING

INCREASED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SEVERAL THAI LABOR ASSOCIATIONS, THE NECESSITY TO CHOOSE AMONG THEM, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE VALUABLENESS OF THE PROJECT WHEN PRESENTED, MIGHT ENCOURAGE JEALOUSY AND BITTERNESS AMONG NON-RECIPIENTS. AAFLI'S SUCCESS UNTIL NOW HAS RESULTED FROM SERVING THE ACKNOWLEDGED CONSENSUS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT FOR INCREASED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. IT WOULD BE A PITY TO SEE THIS SUCCESS ENDANGERED, AND THE WHOLE PROGRAM THREATENED BY MEASURES WHICH WOULD INVOLVE AAFLI IN THE JEALOUSIES AND FACTIONALISM WHICH CHARACTERIZES THAI LABOR AT ITS PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

5. IN ORDER TO AVOID AS MUCH OF THIS AS POSSIBLE EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SOCIAL PROJECTS BE CHOSEN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE THE DANGER OF CAUSING JEALOUSY AMONG NON-RECIPIENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION THE PROPOSAL FOR A MOBILE MEDICAL VAN SEEMS EMINENTLY SENSIBLE. MOREOVER, ON THE THESIS THAT WISDOM FLOWS FROM DIALOGUE AND DIFFERING VIEWS, EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ENCOURAGE AAFLI TO CONTINUE ITS HABIT OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE EMBASSY ESPECIALLY BEFORE AWARDING ANY SOCIAL PROJECTS TO SPECIFIC UNIONS.  
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